

Message Text

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12

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ISO-00 SSO-00 /006 W

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O 070835Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6291

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 3842

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES, NP (ROOKS, ZINAIDE RACHEVSKY)

SUBJ: REPORTED DEATH OF ROOKS

REF: STATE 177173; KATHMANDU 3773

1. DIFFICULTIES IN COMMUNICATIONS HAVE PREVENTED US FROM OBTAINING ANY FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING MRS. ROOKS' REPORTED DEATH. ALTHOUGH UNABLE TO DO SO EARLIER, EX-HUSBAND BARKER NOW HOPES TO FLY BY STOL AIRCRAFT TO MONASTERY AREA SUNDAY, WEATHER PERMITTING. NEAREST AIRSTRIP (APPROXIMATELY SIX HOURS WALK FROM MONASTERY) MAY BE UNUSABLE; ALTERNATIVE STRIP ABOUT 2 DAYS WALK AWAY. ONLY OTHER ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO CHARTER HELICOPTER WHICH MIGHT COST AT LEAST \$750 AND PROBABLY MORE AND FOR WHICH FUNDS NOT PRESENTLY AVAILABLE.

2. POLICE HAVE DEPUTED OFFICER FROM NAMCHE BAZAR TO INVESTIGATE REPORT, BUT LIKELY WE WILL NOT RECEIVE ANY INFORMATION FROM HIM FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

3. PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER POSTED IN AREA WHO KNOW MRS. ROOKS PLANS RETURN TO POST MONDAY AND WILL SEND US REPORT ON ANYTHING HE LEARNS, HOPEFULLY SOMETIME NEXT WEEK.

4. PLEASE ADVISE MRS. DERACHEVSKY THAT WE RECOMMEND SHE DELAY HER RETURN TO KATHMANDU UNTIL FIRMER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE. WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING
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POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN A FULL REPORT; BUT AS SHE IS

WELL AWARE, NEPAL AT ANY TIME OF YEAR, MOST
ESPECIALLY DURING THIS SEASON, DOES NOT HAVE A GOOD
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. IT MAY BE ANOTHER WEEK
OR MORE BEFORE WE CAN OBTAIN A DEFINITIVE REPLY
TO OUR INQUIRIES, UNLESS BARKER CAN GET TO THE
SCENE AND RETURN BEFORE.
COON

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NNN

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Disposition Event:
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